2. (Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein a recess depth x that said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed with respect to said end face of said fiber is related to a water absorption ratio ϕ of said peripheral adhesive and a length L over which said optical fiber is adhered to said V-groove by the equation $x = 0.1 (\phi L) / 2$.

3. (Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein a recess depth x that said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed with respect to said end face of said fiber is at least 0.1 μm.

4. (Amended) The fiber array according to claim 2, wherein a recess depth x that said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed with respect to said end face of said fiber is at least 0.1 μm.

5. (Twice Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein the said face of said fiber is flush with said end face of said fiber array or protrudes therefrom.

6. (Twice Amended) The fiber array according to claim 3, wherein said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed at most 10 μm from said end face of said fiber array.

7. (Twice Amended) The fiber array according to claim 1, wherein said peripheral adhesive has a Young's modulus of at least 0.03GPa.

8. (Amended) A method for fabricating a fiber array according to claim 1, wherein said end face of said peripheral adhesive is recessed with respect to end faces of said fibers, comprising the steps of:

assembling said fiber array;

first polishing an end face of said assembled fiber array; and

then ashing or etching said end face of said fiber array at which said end face of said peripheral adhesive and said end faces of said fibers are located.